

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/625,793

Examiner

Lennin R. Rodriguez

Applicant(s)

MIKI, MOTOHARU

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 10/04/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas Holtz on 12/17/2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

(1) claim 13 has been cancelled.

(2) amend claim 15 as follows:

"An image forming method which divides a complete image that is larger in width than a recording-medium into a plurality of divided images, connects a plurality of recording-media on which the plurality of divided images are formed so as to form the complete image and mutually connects both ends of the complete image, said image forming method comprising:

dividing the complete image into an even number of the divided images;

detecting two of the divided-images each individually having a joint portion and adjoining each other at the respective joint portions;

rotating one of the two divided-images so as to make a recording direction of said one of the two divided-images opposite to a recording direction of the other one of the

two divided-images, and to locate the joint portions of the two divided-images at one position in a width direction of the recording-medium; and

carrying the recording medium in one direction during recording of the divided-images, wherein the divided-images are recorded on the respective recording-media one by one to form a plurality of output images, and wherein the plurality of output images configure the complete image.”

(3) change the title to -- Image-recoding apparatus and method for dividing a complete image for recording onto a plurality of recording media --.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is directed to an image-recording apparatus which divides a complete image that is larger in width than a recording-medium into a plurality of images and, which records the divided images on a plurality of recording-media, said image-recording apparatus. Claims 1 and 15 identify the uniquely distinct features of “wherein the image-processing section divides the image data of the complete image into a plurality of image data pieces indicative of divided images, detects two adjoining divided-images that each individually have a joint portion and adjoin each other at the respective joint portions, in the divided images indicated by the divided image data pieces and rotates one of the adjoining divided-images so as to make a recording direction of one of the adjoining divided-image opposite to a recording direction of the

other adjoining divided-image, and wherein the control section controls the image recording assembly so that the recording medium is carried in one direction during recording of all divided-images, the divided images are recorded on the respective recording-media one by one to form a plurality of output images, and the plurality of output images configure one complete image.” Applicant’s argument “with the structure of the claimed present invention, the printing direction for one of the two divided images to be adjoined and combined with each other and the printing direction for the other of the two divided images are reversed. Namely, as recited in claim 1, for example, one of the adjoining divided images is rotated so as to make a recording direction of one of the adjoining divided images opposite to a recording direction of the other adjoining divided image. That is, while the image recording apparatus prints out one divided image on one image recording medium in a direction directed from an upper position to a lower position, the image-recording apparatus also prints out the inverted other divided image on another image recording medium in a direction directed from an upper position to a lower position.

Therefore, in a case where two image recording mediums on which two divided images are recorded are adjoined and combined with each other to make a large image corresponding to a complete large sized original image, while a starting point of printing of one divided image on one image recording medium and a starting point of printing of the other divided image on the other image recording medium are positioned at opposite ends which are farthest from the combining line on the adjoined and combined two image recording mediums, an end point of printing of one divided image on one

image recording medium and an end point of printing of the other divided image on the other image recording medium are positioned side by side at both sides of the combining line on the adjoined and combined two image recording mediums.

As a result, a density characteristic of the image-recording apparatus at both sides of the combining line on the combined two divided images becomes the same, so that when plural images are combined to make a complete large image, the combining line in the complete large image is not conspicuous." on pages 17-18 of the response filed on 10/04/2007 has been fully considered and are persuasive thus constitute the reasons for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lennin R. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 270-1678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30am - 6:00pm EST.

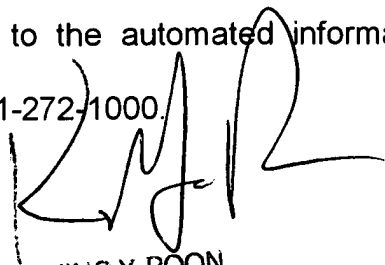
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571) 272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Lennin Rodriguez
12/17/07



KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER